

**climate**

Long-term weather conditions of a region, including temperature, air pressure, humidity, precipitation, sunshine, cloudiness, and winds, throughout the year, and averaged over several years.

**jet stream**

A strong high level wind found in the atmosphere that can reach speeds in excess of 200 mph, usually occurring 6 to 9 miles above the ground. These winds often steer the movement of surface air masses and weather systems.

**anticyclone**

A high-pressure system that moves in a clockwise motion and brings sunny skies.

**air mass**

A volume of air defined by its temperature and water vapor content.

**Bergeron  
classification**

System used to classify air masses according to thermal properties: tropical (T), polar (P), and arctic or antarctic (A) and moisture distribution: continental (c) and maritime (m). Further classification according to whether the air is cold (k) or warm (w).

**polar high**

An area of high atmospheric pressure around the north and south poles. The south polar high is stronger because land gains and loses heat more effectively than sea.

**climatology**

**cold front**

**Coriolis force**

<p>The scientific study of climate.</p>	<p>A boundary between two air masses, one cold and the other warm, moving so that the colder air replaces the warmer air.</p>	<p>A force that deflects moving objects to one side because of the Earth's rotation. The object is still going straight but the Earth moves underneath it, making it look like it is moving to one side. In the Northern Hemisphere, this force deflects objects to the right.</p>
<p><u>cyclone</u></p>	<p><u>drought</u></p>	<p><u>desert</u></p>
<p>Large scale air mass that rotates around strong centers of low pressure, characterized by inward spiraling winds that rotate counterclockwise in the Northern Hemisphere and clockwise in the Southern Hemisphere.</p>	<p>A period when a region has a lack of rainfall.</p>	<p>An arid region which experiences very little rainfall, and which may have little or no vegetation.</p>
<p><u>dry line</u></p>	<p><u>El Niño</u></p>	<p><u>stationary front</u></p>
<p>A boundary that separates warm, dry air from warm, moist air, usually a boundary where thunderstorms form.</p>	<p>The unusual warming of the surface waters of the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean. It causes changes in wind patterns that have major effects on weather all across the globe.</p>	<p>A boundary between two air masses that more or less doesn't move, but some can wobble back and forth for several hundred miles a day.</p>

## high pressure system

A whirling mass of cool, dry air that generally brings fair weather and light winds. When viewed from above, winds spiral in a clockwise rotation in the Northern Hemisphere and counterclockwise in the Southern Hemisphere.

## hurricane season

A six-month period from June 1 to Nov. 30, when conditions are favorable for hurricane development.

## La Niña

A widespread cooling of the surface waters of the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean. It's the opposite of El Niño.

## occluded front

A combination of two fronts that form when a cold front catches up and overtakes a warm front.

## Köppen Climate Classification

A system used to classify climates into groups.

## low pressure system

A whirling mass of warm, moist air that generally brings stormy weather with strong winds. When viewed from above, winds spiral in a counterclockwise rotation in the Northern Hemisphere and clockwise in the Southern Hemisphere.

## monsoon

## tropics

## weather system

<p>A seasonal wind, found especially in Asia that reverses direction between summer and winter and often brings heavy rains.</p>	<p>The area of Earth between 23.5 degrees north latitude and 23.5 degrees south latitude.</p>	<p>Systematic or persistent anticyclones, cyclones, or weather patterns.</p>
<p><u>stable air</u></p>	<p><u>unstable air</u></p>	<p><u>warm front</u></p>
<p>Air that is colder than its surroundings and is resistant to upward movement.</p>	<p>Air that is warmer than its surroundings and tends to rise, leading to the formation of clouds and precipitation.</p>	<p>The boundary between two air masses, one cool and the other warm, moving so that the warmer air replaces the cooler air.</p>